

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0411

INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 04228

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, SU, UK

SUBJECT: UK- SUDAN AGREEMENTS

REF: LONDON 4024

1. SEEKING CLARIFICATION OF UK- SUDAN COMPENSATION AND AID AGREEMENTS REPORTED REFTEL, WE SPOKE WITH FCO NORTH AFRICAN DEPT HEAD CRAIG AND ODA DEPUTY SECRETARY RICHARD KING. CRAIG SAID THAT MAJOR STICKING POINT WAS SIZE OF INITIAL COMPENSATION PAYMENT WHICH SUDANESE WOULD BE EXPECTED TO MAKE BEFORE END OF APRIL. FIGURE FINALLY AGREED UPON WAS 2.5 MILLION POUNDS STERLING. AS REPORTED REFTEL, NIMAIRY WANTED COMPENSATION PAYMENTS TO COME OUT OF BRITISH AID BUT BRITISH INSISTED THAT AID AND COMPENSATION BE KEPT SEPARATE. CRAIG, HOWEVER, SAID THAT THERE WAS A TACIT UNDERSTANDING THAT SOME OF NEW 15.7 MILLION POUND AID PACKAGE WOULD BE IN FORM OF PAYMENTS FOR LOCAL COSTS FOR AID PROJECTS AND HE LEFT IMPLICATION THAT A PORTION OF THIS MONEY MIGHT WIND UP BEING USED TO HELP GOS MEET COMPENSATION PAYMENTS.

2. KING, WHEN ASKED ABOUT AGREEMENTS WITH SUDANESE, SAID THAT BRITISH HAD INSISTED ON KEEPING AID AND COMPENSATION IN ENTIRELY SEPARATE COMPARTMENTS. PUBLISHED REPORTS THAT SUDAN' S INCREASED EARNINGS RESULTING FROM THE NEW BRITISH AID INPUT WOULD HELP IT MEET COMPENSATION PAYMENTS WERE A " SUDANESE INTERPRETATION", KING ADDED.

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3. COMMENT: WE ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT, AS CRAIG IMPLIED, THERE WAS SOME UNSPOKEN UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN BRITISH AND SUDANESE WHICH WOULD PERMIT LATTER TO UTILIZE AID FUNDS TO HELP PAY COMPENSATION. OBVIOUSLY BRITISH WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THIS PUBLICLY. BUT IN VIEW OF THEIR WISH TO MAKE NIMAIRY VISIT THE OCCASION FOR GETTING UK- SUDAN RELATIONS OFF ON A NEW FOOTING AND NIMAIRY' S EQUALLY ARDENT DESIRE NOT TO HAVE TO DEplete HIS MEAGRE RESOURCES TO PAY OUT COMPENSATION TO THE BRITISH, A COMPROMISE ALONG THE LINES SUGGESTED ABOVE SEEMS PLAUSIBLE.

SOHM

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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